

Committee and approved by the full Senate by voice vote on September 21, 1995.

H.R. 2024 is an industry initiative developed to respond to the environmental threats posed by used, spent batteries. The approach is twofold. First, the bill promotes the recycling of rechargeable batteries through uniform labeling requirements and streamlined regulations for battery collection programs. Second, the bill limits mercury content in and phases out the use of mercury in certain batteries.

The bill is straightforward and contains two titles. Title I would facilitate the efficient recycling of nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries, small lead-acid rechargeable batteries, and rechargeable batteries used in consumer products through: One, uniform battery labeling requirements; two, streamlined regulatory requirements for battery collection programs; and three, the elimination of barriers to funding voluntary industry collection programs.

Title II is intended to phase out the use of mercury in batteries, thus reducing the threat this material poses to our air and groundwater.

H.R. 2024 and its Senate companion S. 619 are prime examples of industry's concern for the environment. The legislation is an excellent example of a point that I have made many times: protection of the environment and a strong economy go hand in hand. By providing a coherent national system for labeling batteries and products, requiring the easy removability of batteries from consumer products, and streamlining Federal regulations, the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act will provide States, localities, consumers, and industry the opportunity to join together to achieve greater environmental protection without imposing burdens on the States or local taxpayers. In fact, the bill will generate substantial savings for Federal, State, and local entities and commercial operations that ship batteries due to the lower cost associated with the bill's streamlined requirements.

H.R. 2024 is legislation supported by the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. In addition, the administration has expressed its support for the bill. I am convinced that H.R. 2024 will result in greater protection of our environment and I urge its adoption.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to join Senator CHAFEE and Senator SMITH in supporting H.R. 2024, the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act.

The bill is based on the bipartisan bill that I sponsored with Senators FAIRCLOTH, LIEBERMAN, REID, and GRAHAM during the last Congress.

This legislation is an important step in our efforts to control the amount of toxic wastes entering the waste

stream. Specifically, it deals with mercury, cadmium, and lead, which are contained in some battery casing. These materials pose no risk while a battery is in use. But they can be a significant concern when discarded in our solid waste stream.

Cadmium, which is used in the electrodes of rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries, can cause kidney and liver damage.

Mercury exposure can cause significant damage to the nervous system and kidneys. It has also been linked to decreased motor functions and muscle reflexes, memory loss, headaches, and brain function disorders. And when mercury enters the aquatic environment, it can form methyl mercury, which is extremely toxic to both humans and wildlife.

Although dry cell batteries account for less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the 180 billion tons of garbage we generate each year, dry cell batteries have been significant sources of mercury, cadmium, and lead in our waste stream.

According to a New York State report, mercury batteries accounted for 85 percent of the mercury, and rechargeable batteries accounted for 68 percent of the cadmium, in New York's solid waste.

In landfills, dry cell batteries can break down to release their toxic contents and contaminate our waters. In incinerators, the combustion of dry cell batteries containing toxic metals leads to elevated toxic air emissions, and has increased the concentrations of toxic metals in the resulting fly and bottom ash.

This bill, by limiting the amount of toxics used in primary batteries and creating a recycling program for rechargeable nickel cadmium, will remove a significant source of toxics from our landfills.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read for the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the bill (H.R. 2024) was deemed read for the third time, and passed.

#### AUTHORITY TO SIGN DULY ENROLLED BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to sign duly enrolled bills and resolutions during today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL OF S. 1660

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if and when the Environment and Public Works Committee reports the bill S.

1660, the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, the bill be sequentially referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation for a period not to exceed 20 calendar days; further, that if the measure has not been reported following that period, it be automatically discharged and placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENT

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the statement submitted with reference to the death of Secretary Brown and other officials at the Commerce Department and from the business community be compiled and printed as a Senate document.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME—S. 1708

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1708, introduced earlier today by Senator THURMOND, is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A bill (S. 1708) to amend title 28 of the United States Code to clarify the remedial jurisdiction of the inferior Federal courts.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading and, on behalf of Senator DASCHLE, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will remain at the desk.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2337

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 374, H.R. 2337, an act to provide for increased taxpayer protections; that one amendment be in order to the measure which will be offered by Senator GRAMM regarding the gas tax repeal; that no other amendments be in order; further, that immediately following the disposition of the Gramm amendment, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the measure, as amended, if amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I have to object on behalf of the minority leader, and I would state that the Democrats are cleared with no amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.